posed to be developed as autonomous colleges by the end of the VII Plan. The UGC has formulated detailed guidelines for implementation of the Scheme. Every University has been requested to select suitable colleges with the approval of the concerned State Governments. The autonomous status has to be conferred by the University concerned in accordance with the provisions of its Act and Statutes. According to the existing provisions in the Delhi University Act, only those colleges conducting courses of study in Medicine, Technology, Music or Fine Arts can be given autonomous status. A Bill to amend this provision to enable the University to confer autonomous status on any college affiliated to it is now before Parliament. It will be for the University to confer autonomous status on its colleges after this amendment becomes effective.

(c) Some teachers' organisations including the Delhi University Teachers Association have expressed some reservation against the Scheme of autonomous colleges. They apprehend that autonomy will delink the colleges from the parent University; management of colleges will become arbitrary; their terms and conditions of srvice will be modified to their disadvantage; the scheme will promote elitism; etc.

(d) The Scheme of autonomous colleges is conceived as an experiment in decentralisation of academic administration. It will enable colleges to frame their own courses of study, prescribe their content, hold examinations, etc.

Static growth rate of country's Population

50. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 249 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1988 and state whether it is a fact that the birth rate has remained static during the last few years and the population control programmes have not brought it down?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): Annual Estimates of birth rate are available from Sample Registration System of Registrar General, India. The latest available estimates for 1985 and 1986 show that the birth rates are 32.9 and 32.6 per 1000 population respectively which show a steady decline from the level of 33.9 for the year 1984.

Recognition to Telugu University in A. P.

51. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the University Grants Commission for recognition to the recently set up Telugu University;

(b) if so, whether the recognition has been granted by the University Grants Commission; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The Telugu University established under an Act of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature does not require any formal recognition by the University Grants Commission. However, since the University was established in 1986, it requires to be declared fit by the UGC for the purpose of financial assistance from Central sources. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the UGC to declare the Telugu University fit to receive assistance.